

NOVEMBER

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2025



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects

Click on Slide to see danger of picking wrong
meal selection

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The Magic Lantern Calendar –November 2025

Events

Oct. 30, 2025, **Magic Lantern Show and Exhibition Late View**, an evening of Victorian magic and entertainment with Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, The London Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R OHB, England.

Oct. 30, 2025, **By Magic Lantern Light**, an evening of awe and wonderment from a bygone age with a wide variety of moving images by Professor Akins and his magic lantern show, The Phyllis Maud Performance Space, Newport, Wales NP20 2, UK.

Nov. 1, 2025, **19th Century Magic Lantern Show**, travel back in time with Matt Schnittker for a fantastical Halloween 19th century magic lantern show, Seeley Stable Theatre, 2025 Dia de Los Muertos Community Celebration, Old Town San Diego State Historical Park, CA.

Nov. 14, 2025, **Phantasmagoria Magic Lantern Show**, lanternist Brett King presents a family-friendly live performance featuring adaptations of beloved fairy tales and holiday-themed slides, Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, University of Pittsburgh, 650 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

Nov. 22 & 23, 2025, **A Gothically Grand Magic Lantern Christmas**, fantastical images and enchanting story telling experiences with Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, Charles Dickens Museum, 48-49 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX, England.

Dec. 7, 2025, **The Magic Lantern Show**, in conjunction with the exhibition Dissolving Views: Magic Lantern Performance, Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz present a program of magic lantern entertainments, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave., Astoria NY 11106.

Dec. 8, 2025, **Victorian Christmas**, featuring slides from the 19th and 20th century alongside modern slides, with Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EP, England.

Dec. 13, 2025, **Hands-on History: Children's Magic Lantern Show**, a unique afternoon of play with Victorian replica and original toys and children's magic lantern show performances, King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Avenue, Queens, NY 11432.

Dec. 15, 2025, **Christmas Magic Lantern Show**, featuring Dr. Nick Hiley, Salvation Army Hall, Alma Parade, Scarborough YO11 1SJ, U.K. Through 2025, Project Space Residency, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Jan. 25, 2026, **2026 Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Musical Museum, Brentford, London, England.

Apr. 23-26, 2026, **21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada**, Toronto, CA. Save the Date – more information coming soon!

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Calendar –continued

Exhibits

Through Dec. 28, 2026, **Im Zauber Des Lichts, Bilderwelten der Latera Magica**, an overview of children's slides production in Germany with examples from the beginnings in the 1780s to the 1930s, with children's lanterns from the same period, with their boxes, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 61267 Neu-Anspach, Germany.

Through Dec. 29, 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Through Mar. 22, 2026, **Dissolving Views: Magic Lantern Performance**, presenting a rare triunial from the Museum collection and dissolving view slide sets and a video by filmmaker/lanternist Joel Schlemowitz, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave, Astoria NY 11106.

Online

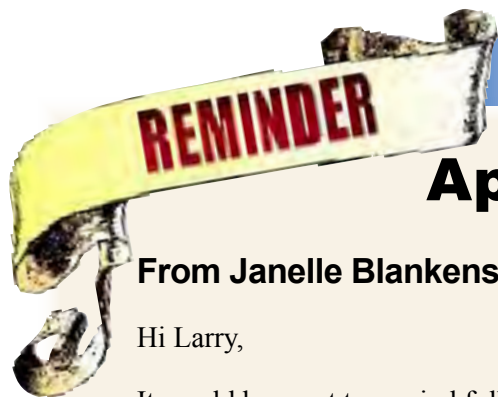
Magic Lantern Research Group, Learn about, collaborate on academic research. Monthly on Zoom, Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.



21st International Convention

April 23-26th, 2026 - Toronto, Canada.

From Janelle Blankenship

Hi Larry,

It would be great to remind folks to book their hotel rooms at the Schulich Hotel. Their cancellation policy is quite generous, so it is better to book a room now!

We have received numerous proposals for presentations, workshops and performances so I don't think it is necessary to print the call for presentations again, but it would be good to include the information about hotel booking again and the information about our primary venue, Black Creek and remind society members to book their hotel rooms early!

The 21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada will be held at the Village at Black Creek, a re-created 19th-century country village in North York, Toronto. Immerse yourself in the 1860s and explore a charming country village of the Toronto region.

The permanent exhibition "Invention: Propelled by Imagination" explores how 19th-century's scientific and technological advancements fueled creativity and imagination, particularly in the realm of science fiction.



Schulich Executive Learning Center Hotel Hotel Reservations:
Schulich Hotel - 4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, Canada
<https://www.acc-schulichexecutiveconferencecentre.com/>
Underground parking available

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Schulich Executive Learning Centre at York University at a discounted rate. To book accommodations at the Executive Learning Centre, Schulich School of Business, please contact the reservations team:

- **Room Rate:** \$189.00 CAD per night plus 13% HST based on single occupancy; \$20.00 CAD plus 13% HST applies as double occupancy fee.
- The discounted rate is also available for a select number of rooms for two nights prior and after the conference. If you want to make a reservation for these "shoulder dates" please book early.

• **Room Type:**

• Standard room type: 1 Queen Bed
A limited number of King bed rooms are also available. These King rooms are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, and guests may request them when selecting double occupancy. To ensure your attendees have the best chance of securing a King room, book early and specify your preference at the time of reservation.

• **Email:** reservations@schulich.yorku.ca

• Phone: 416-650-8300

• **Important Booking Details:**

• **Block ID:** 871212

• **Block Name:** Magic Lantern Society Conference

• **Reservation Deadline:** March 21, 2026

• **Check In/Check Out:**

4pm/12 noon

After this date, any unused rooms will be released back into general inventory and will be subject to availability.

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Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda-gumi Performance Announcement

From Karl Link

singslipslidesong@gmail.com

Dear Karl,

Thank you for your continued support of the activities of Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda-gumi.

On November 9, 2025, A performance of Nishiki Kage-e by the Nishiki Kage-e Ikeda-gumi will be held at the Former Ueda Family Residence, a designated cultural property of Yao City, Osaka Prefecture, located at the Yasunaka Shinden Meeting Hall Site.

For more details, please see the Information page on our website.

http://nishiki-kagee.com/pge/en/05_plan.html

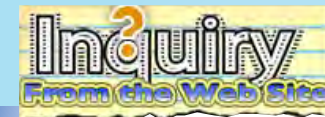
We would appreciate it if you could introduce us to your acquaintances.

Sincerely,

Mitsue



http://nishiki-kagee.com/pge/en/05_plan.html



George C. Hall Contact Information

From Theodore Goodman

throgo@gmail.com

Hello, I am trying to find out whether George C. Hall is still around, and what his contact information is. He used to be active with the Magic Lantern Society. I want to contact him regarding a video which he made with Joe Rinaudo and his Fotoplayer instrument.

Would anyone with the Magic Lantern Society have any information that might help?

Best regards,

Theodore Goodman

audio and digital archivist and board member

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum

Former Alaskan Brings Magic Lantern Arctic Exploration To Life

From Brian Rogers

Hi Larry -

Good coverage of my magic lantern show in Fairbanks at the Alaska Historical Society

https://fairbanksdailynews-ak.newsmemory.com/?token=efc8aee791efdbf9702f0bae3986249c_68dbea4a_e24add_0

MAGIC LANTERNS PROJECT HISTORY

The only thing better than discovering magic lanterns was learning about them from a former Alaskan.

Brian Rogers, former chancellor of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, now lives in Port Townsend, Washington, and he is well known in the Interior. He shared his love of magic lanterns and glass slides with members of the Alaska Historical Society during their 2025 conference in the Golden Heart

ALL PHOTOS KRIS CAPPS/NEWS-MINER

Kris Capps
COMMUNITY EDITOR
kcapps@newsminer.com



Brian Rogers shows off his Magic Lantern and slides after his presentation to the Alaska Historical Society at their 2025 annual conference.



Some of the slides Brian Rogers showed were hand-painted.



Before movies, projected slides were a form of entertainment. Rogers collects slides of arctic exploration and Alaska — including posters from early movies.

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Former Alaskan Brings Magic Lantern Arctic Exploration To Life continued

City last week, at Pikes Waterfront Lodge.

He has been collecting magic lanterns and slides for the past 20 years.

"I needed something smaller than books to collect," he said. "It's not any lighter though."

He is so passionate about this hobby that he is currently vice president of the Magic Lantern Society of the U.S. and Canada. His primary passion is collecting glass slides of arctic exploration.

The Magic Lantern Society collects, preserves and shares information on the many devices that were used to entertain and educate audiences before the beginning of cinema. The magic lantern shows were a combination of projected images, live narration and live music and were incredibly popular 100 years ago.

Magic lanterns, introduced in the 1600s, were the earliest form of slide projectors, with a long and fascinating history. The first magic lanterns were illuminated by candles, but as technology evolved, they were lit by kerosene, limelight (non-electric type



of stage lighting), carbon arc (a type of electric arc lamp in which carbon rods serve as electrodes to produce light through a thermal discharge in air) and finally electricity.

In 1895 there were between 30,000 and 60,000 lantern showmen in the United States, giving between 75,000 and 150,000 performances a year.

The first lantern slides were hand painted on glass and projected on walls and cloth screens. By the mid-19th century, black and white lantern slides were produced photographically. Until movies came along, around the turn of the century, magic lanterns were the only existing projection device. Once magic lanterns debuted, arctic explorers often used them for presentations, to raise funds for their expeditions.

Rogers' presentation was a real treat, when one considers the challenges of carefully transporting the magic lantern itself and the fragile glass slides all the way to Alaska from Washington state. He commended Alaska Airlines for getting all these treasures to Fairbanks safely, as he repacked them after his presentation.

The slides recreated the time of the Klondike gold rush, panoramic images of early 20th century Alaska towns and activities, hand-colored glass slides and more. He showed a few slip slides, which display a rudimentary type of movement, in two stages.

"These particular slide transparencies consisted of two pieces of glass sandwiched together," according to the magic lantern website. "The lantern operator would manually operate one

continued next page

Arctic Exploration To Life continued

glass on top of another. Since two separate, yet related images, were contained on the slides, the effect in the project image was one of apparent movement.”

He displayed a colorful chromatrope slide, that showed colorful geometrical patterns set in motion by rotating two painted glass discs in opposite directions.

Rogers even got in the spirit of the times by donning a top hat as he delivered his presentation.

“I knew this was a good group that would have people interested in it,” he said, of the audience filled with historians.

Rogers said he shares his love of magic lanterns with the local historical society in Port Townsend and at national conventions of the Magic Lantern Society.

Reach columnist/community editor Kris Capps at kcapps@newsminer.com.



Parts and Pieces

From Wendy Gronbeck

wildwestwendy@icloud.com

I have a rather large box of magic lantern parts and pieces. If someone can use them and wants to come get them, they can have them. I'm in southwestern Michigan.

Wendy Gronbeck
wildwestwendy@comcast.net
319-936-7303



Oil Lamp For Sale

From Jerry Mohn

jmohn4@yahoo.com



Magic Lantern For Sale

From Jerry Mohn

jmohn4@yahoo.com

Hello -

In 1988 I wrote to Joe Koch that was answered by R.O.Bishop. I now wish to sell. In 1988 the value was between \$225-300. i don't know the value now but am looking for advice. Hoping to hear from you. Jerry Mohn



From David Evans

I told him the value today would probably be less than the value placed on it then.

Regards

David



Newspaper Feature Sunday, April 16, 1978

About A Slide Show

PHOTO ESSAY/

HAND-COLORED LANTERN slides have gone the way of the stereopticons, cameras as large as a refrigerator and the glass-plate negatives on which the lantern slides were painted. Lantern slides were the forerunner of the 35 millimeter slides we take on vacation trips now, and were called lantern slides because they were projected on screens and walls with the help of a powerful light called lanterns then.

These photos were taken by Asahel Curtis, who lived and worked in Seattle until his death in 1941. He was the younger -and vastly neglected - brother of Edward S. Curtis, the famed photographer of North American Indians. Asahel owned a studio in Seattle; and his sister, Eva, was one of his best artists when it came to applying paint to pieces of glass on which a pale image of a scene was printed.

Some of the slides came out looking quite garish, almost like an advertising illustration for vegetables. An example is the photograph of a Tingit Indian in his costume. Others were muted, such as the elderly Indian woman carrying driftwood home



for her fire. Some such as the interior of the old Washington Hotel (a victim of the Denny Regrade) had almost no color. If the bouquets of flowers weren't in the lobby, the photograph would be a study in grays and browns.

Eva Curtis and an assistant painted thousands of such slides, and many were bought by William O. Thorniley, from whose collection these

were borrowed. Thorniley was one of Curtis' closest friends and was employed by Black Ball, a maritime transportation company.

Those who look at these hand-colored slides today are astonished at how closely the artists were able to duplicate actual colors. Sometimes they were more accurate than modern color film.

About Unusual Small Hand Painted and Photo Slides

From Larry Cederblom

I have acquired a small collection of about 13 wood slides of an unusual size. The types and sizes are shown here on the right. I have no lantern that these slide fit. Too small for a standard lantern and too big for any of my toy lanterns.

The question I have is about what kind of a lantern were these slides used in and are they unique?

Small Slip Slide is 5¼ inches long by almost 2⅜ inches high and just short of ⅜ inches thick



Normal Slip Slide is 7 inches long by almost 4 inches high and ⅜ inches thick

Slide Sizes and Type

Chromatropes Type Slides
128mm long x 65mm wide x 14mm thick



120mm long x 58mm wide x 12mm thick



Lever Slide
142mm long
(includes lever) x
58mm wide x 10mm thick



Slip Slides

133mm long x 60mm wide x 10mm thick



Photo Slides
138mm long
x 55mm wide
x 10mm thick
black & white photos

continued next page

Unusual Small Hand Painted and Photo Slides continued

From David Evans

Hi Larry

Having consulted my database, we have several slides in the same size range as yours. These are all toy types, as your soft wood mounted ones are, but not sure what type of lantern uses them - will continue to try to find something! As you can see, slides occurred in a vast range of sizes - must have known at the time what they fitted!

A few of the Slides by Type, Description, & Dimensions

Chromotrope - hand painted Chromotrope - 'Stripes & Balls' stamped 'Stanley, Gt Turnstile, WC & London Bd RY STn'. Wood mount now extended in width. 140x76 mm

Set of 12 children's slides, multiple images. Caricature images. In card box. 165x50 mm

Slipping - Waiter falls over. Metal frame. 170x50 mm

Primus series IV & others 12 slides. 172x50 mm

Children's slides - panoramic. 6 slides. 175x50 mm

Primus story 12 slides. 180x50 mm

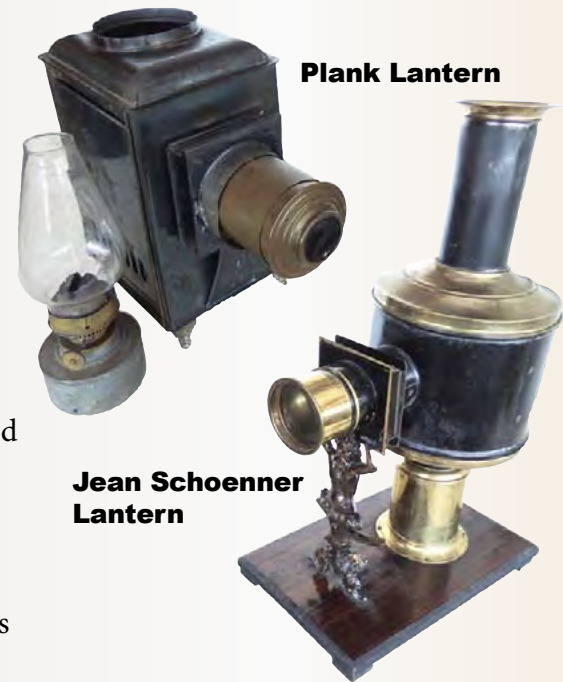
Jack & the Beanstalk & others - 4 stories. 4 views per slide. In box. 185x50 mm
Checking the Bing catalog, I should mention that, for example, their Pharos lantern was available in several sizes for slides ranging from 1 1/8" to 3 1/4" wide for plain glass slides and from 1 1/8" to 2 3/8" wide for wood mounted slides. There were 8 different sizes of lantern available. The Helios lantern 'with excellent optics', was available in 6 different sizes, for glass or wood slides of 1 3/4" to 3 1/2". Their 'Gral' lantern had a condenser lens of 4 1/8" dia for slides of regular size, so just from one manufacturer lanterns were available for a whole range of slide widths.

They kept a range of slides of all manner of subjects in all those widths! Must have been a stock controller's nightmare!

We have a Jean Schoenner lantern that takes 2" (50 mm) width slides.

Hope all this helps.

David



A Big Thank You to the following:

Janelle Blankenship
David Evans
Theodore Goodman
Wendy Gronbec
Jerry Mohn
Karl Link
Brian Rogers

for contributing
to this months issue.